

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CPR-02 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 EB-11 AGR-20

FRB-03 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 COME-00 NEA-14 FEAEE-00 IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1275

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DR, RQ

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICAN PARTICIPATION IN PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S
INAUGURAL ACTIVITIES

1. ONE OF THE MOST STRIKING ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S
INAUGURATION WAS THE SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO THE GOVERNOR OF
PUERTO RICO, RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON, AND HIS ATTRACTIVE AND
CHARMING WIFE, DONA LILA MAYORAL DE HERNANDEZ. THE GOVERNOR
WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY HIS SECRETARIES OF TREASURY AND COMMERCE,
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, HIS
BROTHER WHO HEADS THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION, THE MAYOR OF PONCE,
AND A DOZEN OR SO PRESS PEOPLE.

2. PRESIDENT BALAGUER, VICE PRESIDENT GOICO MORALES, THE FONSEC
AND NUMEROUS CABINET MEMBERS WAITED AT ONE END OF THE RED
CARPET FOR THE GOVERNOR'S PLANE TO LAND. MILITARY HONORS
WERE RENDERED AND THE ANTHEMS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, US
AND PUERTO RICO (IN THAT ORDER) WERE PLAYED. GOVERNOR AND
MRS. HERNANDEZ AND THREE OF THEIR SMALL CHILDREN WERE HOUSED
IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE DURING THEIR STAY (WHILE THE OTHER
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FOREIGN DIGNITARIES, INCLUDING THE PARAGUAYAN CHIEF SUPREME COURT

JUSTICE, AND FONSEC RABASA OF MEXICO, WERE LODGED IN THE POORLY-SERVICED EMBAJADOR HOTEL (SANTO DOMINGO'S BEST).

3. DURING THE INAUGURATION AT THE CONGRESS, THE GOVERNOR SAT AT THE HEAD TABLE AND THEREAFTER WAS SEATED AT THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE ON ALL SOCIAL OCCASIONS, AS WELL AS AT THE TE DEUM IN THE CATHEDRAL. AT THE OUTSET OF HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS, THE PRESIDENT GREETED THE GOVERNOR FIRST AMONG THE ASSEMBLED DIGNITARIES, A GESTURE WHICH WAS MET BY WARM APPLAUSE FROM THE AUDIENCE.

4. IN PREVIOUS REPORTING, WE HAVE NOTED THAT FOR A VARIETY OF HISTORICAL REASONS THERE EXISTS AN UNUSUALLY STRONG BOND BETWEEN THE PUERTO RICAN AND DOMINICAN PEOPLE AND THAT WE HOPED TO FIND MEANS TO ENCOURAGE AND BUILD UPON THIS FELICITOUS SITUATION. THE SPECIAL COURTESY SHOWN THE GOVERNOR AND HIS WIFE WAS NOT LOST UPON THE PUERTO RICAN DELEGATION WHICH RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO ALL DOMINICAN GESTURES OF THOUGHTFULNESS. THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF PLEASURE WERE MANIFEST DURING THE LUNCHEON OFFERED BY THE AMBASSADOR FOR ALL US NATIONALS IN THE DOMREP AS PERSONAL GUESTS OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

5. DURING HIS STAY, GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND ALSO MADE SOME AIRPORT REMARKS UPON DEPARTURE. HIS MAIN POINTS WERE:

A. HE FULLY SUPPORTED A "COMPLETE REVISION" OF THE COMPLEMENTARY AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

B. NO DEFINITE AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE NEAR EAST, BUT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DEEP WATER PETROLEUM PROCESSING PORT IN PUERTO RICO. (THE GOVERNOR ASSURED THE PRESS THAT THE MONA ISLAND SITE WAS NO LONGER UNDER CONSIDERATION.) THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PORT MAY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE DOMINICANS TO GET PETROLEUM PRODUCTS "AT MORE ADVANTAGEOUS PRICES."

C. CUBA SHOULD NOT BE READMITTED TO THE OAS UNTIL IT (CUBA) MAKES CHANGES IN ITS POLICY OF INTERVENTION IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.
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